

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 15-17 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-6 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Becker et al. (US Pat. No. 5,984,450). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 4-6 and 9-12 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker et al. (US Pat. No. 5,984,450). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting the prosecution of this application, claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Claims 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schleifer et al. (US Pat. No. 6,372,482 B2) in view of Becker et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting the prosecution of this application, claim 13 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Accordingly, claim 13 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-17 depend from claim 13 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

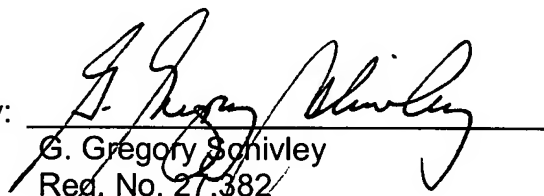
The office action states that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As stated above, claim 13 now recites the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Claim 14 is cancelled.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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